

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 18, line 23 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

FIG. 6 shows an illustrative configuration based on a single set-top box. Set-top box 90 is connected to optional videocassette recorders 91 and televisions 94, 96, and 98 via communication paths 99. Optional videocassette recorder 91 is in turn connected to ~~televisions~~ television 92. If desired, any combination of televisions with or without videocassette recorders and televisions may be connected in a similar manner. The set-top box, videocassette recorders and televisions of FIG. 6 may be placed in rooms within home 65. For example, set top box 90, videocassette recorder 91 and television 92 may be placed in a parent's bedroom, television 94 may be placed in a children's room, and television 96 may be placed in a living room, and television 98 may be placed in a guest room. Communication paths 99 may be any in-home network paths suitable for transmitting video, audio and data, such as, dedicated cable, fiber optics or firewire links.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 19, line 7 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

FIGS. 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, and 9 show illustrative configurations for the connection between the home and the

television distribution facility. Only one user television equipment device is shown in the households in FIGS 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, and 9 to avoid over-complicating the drawings. However, each household 65, 101, 102, 103, 104, [[301, 302]] 401, and 402 in FIGS. 7a, 7b, 7c, 8, and 9 may contain multiple pieces of user television equipment configured as shown in FIGS. 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, or 6.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 25, line 6 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Selecting setup option 179 directs the program guide to display a setup screen such as setup screen 310 of FIG. 31. The user can select assign location option 316 on setup screen 310 by moving highlight region 312 and pressing the enter key. Selecting assign location option 316 directs the program guide to display assign locations screen 160 of FIG. 11. The user can then move highlight region 162 to set B option 165. Selecting option 165, directs the program guide to provide the user with an opportunity to enter a name to assign to set B. For example, the user may use data input device 140 or remote control 54 to enter [[the]] letters 164 associated with the selected name. The program guide may use such user-defined device names when the relationship between devices is set up. For example, the user may designate the "parents room" location (e.g., parent's room 161) as a master

location (e.g., master control 166) and may designate the "children's room" location (e.g., Bobbi's room 163) as a slave location (e.g., set B 165). The names of locations may be pre-set by a service provider and simply assigned by the user. Alternately the user (or an installation technician), may have the ability to assign locations from the home. The location name may be chosen from a list as above or typed in by the user (or an installation technician.)

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 26, line 3 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 14, at step 1000, the program guide may provide the user with an opportunity to select the devices or locations for which the user desires to adjust settings. Step 1000 may, for example, involve providing a screen such as select location screen 400 of FIG. 13. At step 1001 of FIG. 14, after the user has made a selection by moving highlight region 155 (FIG. ~~[[14]]~~ 13) to the desired device (e.g., parents' room option 154) and pressed the enter key, the program guide sets the selected locations. The guide may also default to a particular location based on the type of setting that is changed. (e.g., if a setting for the recording of a program is changed, the guide may default to location with a videocassette recorder.) The guide may default to any combination of locations based on the type of

setting that is changed. There are also "other factors" that may be used by the guide to determine at which location the settings will be effective. These include: the current location of the user making the adjustment, whether a location to be adjusted is currently being used, the state of other settings, etc.[]] At step 1002, the program guide may return to a menu (e.g., menu 170 in FIG. 12).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 27, line 8 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

At step 1011 of FIG. 17, after the user has entered a preselected password 211 (FIG. 15) on enter password screen 210 of FIG. 15, the program guide checks the password. If the wrong password was provided at step 1013, then the user is shown invalid password screen 212 of FIG. 15 and is denied access to parental control screen 190 of FIG. 16 at step 1014 of FIG. 17, and may be returned to main menu screen 170 of FIG. 12. If the user has provided a valid password at step 1012, the program guide provides various options at step 1015. At step 1015, the user can access parental control screen 190 of FIG. 16 and may use remote control 54 to navigate between options such as set channels option 191, set maximum rating option 193, and monitor viewing option 195. The user may navigate to set channels screen 200 of FIG. 18a

by selecting set channels option 191 at step 1016 of FIG. 17 by moving the highlight region 192 and pressing select.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 28, line 22 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

The user may also navigate to a set maximum ratings screen by choosing set maximum rating option 193 of FIG. 16, at step 1017 of FIG. 17, by moving a highlight region and pressing select. [[The]] At step 1021 of FIG. 17, the user may then set a maximum rating allowed for viewing in a manner similar to the set channels option. For example, the user may move a highlight region to a set maximum rating option (which may be TV-MA), then the user can enter his selected maximum using remote control 54. Next, the user can choose to apply the adjustments to all locations by selecting an apply to all option or may opt to apply the adjustments to a specific location or locations by selecting a select locations option from the options provided by the program guide, at step 1024 of FIG 17. The guide may apply the settings to a default location or to a location determined by other factors as described above.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 29, line 11 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

[[The]] At step 1023 of FIG. 17, the program guide at the user's location may then, in one alternative, provide the user with monitor viewing screen 230, which shows the channel that each location is currently viewing or an overlay such as a banner or small information box that shows the channels that the other locations are viewing, but that also allows the user to continue watching programming at the user's location. The program guide at the user's location may poll the program guides at other locations within the household to determine whether anyone is currently viewing television and to which channels they are tuned. The monitor viewing screen may also allow the viewing of video, audio, or still images associated with the channel being viewed at another location. For example, the video of the remote location may be shown in a small box on the screen while the current channel's video is in the background.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 30, line 23 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Another feature that may be provided by the program guide is a reminders feature, which may be accessed by selecting reminders option 178 from the menu of main screen 170 of FIG. 12. The reminders feature allows the user to set a reminder for a television program that the user wishes to watch at a later time. Just before the television

program for which a reminder has been set is to be broadcast, a reminder message is displayed on the user's television screen. Reminders may also be provided that direct the program guide to automatically tune the user's set-top box to the program specified in the reminder. Reminders may also provide the user with an on-screen reminder when a selected program begins and may allow the user to manually tune to the selected channel.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 31, line 3 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

A family reminders option may be provided that operates similarly to the reminders functions described above and which allows reminders to be set for a family, which may be accessed by selecting family reminders option 184 from the menu of main screen 170 of FIG. 12. For example, in FIG. 7a server 105 at central facility 100 may store many family reminder settings (or other settings) for individual homes. The program guides in a particular home or household may also provide the ability to adjust favorites settings, parental control settings, reminder settings and the like. These settings may be named and associated with a viewing location, an entire home, or a group of homes.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 31, line 15 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

A series reminder option may be provided that allows users to set reminders for program series. Series reminders are described in Knudson et al. U.S. patent application ~~Serial~~ No. [[____]] 09/330,792, filed June 11, 1999 ~~(Attorney Docket No. UV 56)~~, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 31, line 21 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

An illustrative example of using the reminders feature is as follows. If a user at one of the program guide locations within the household presses an appropriate button (e.g., the enter button) after having used a browse feature (i.e., a pop-up program listing display 256) to navigate to a program listing 257 for "Holiday Entertaining" as shown in screen 255 of FIG. 20, the program guide at that location may present the user with set reminder screen 350 of FIG. 21. Set reminder screen 350 allows the user to choose to set a reminder for the selected program 352 (Holiday Entertaining) by selecting yes option 354 with highlight region 356 shown at step 1030 of FIG. 23. If the user selects no option 358, set reminder screen 350 is canceled. If set reminder screen 350 is not canceled, the user select the program guide

locations (i.e., the locations of the various user television equipment devices within the household) to which the adjustments are to be applied by selecting apply to all option 205, current location option 209, or by selecting the select locations option 206 (step 1031, FIG. 23) and interacting with various sub-menus listing the available locations from which to choose. Set reminder screen 350 and other such screens in the program guide may use either a full-screen or partial-screen display format. After the user selects the program guide locations to which the reminders are to be applied, the program guide at the user's location communicates with the program guides at the user-selected locations. During this communication process, the program guide at the user's location directs the other program guides to set reminders for display at their locations just before the scheduled broadcast time of the program. If desired, the program guide at the user's location can communicate with the program guides at the selected locations using other suitable techniques. For example, the program guide at the user's location may issue instructions to the program guides at the selected locations just before the scheduled broadcast time of the program for which the reminder was set that causes those program guides to display a reminder message at that time. These approaches are merely illustrative. Any other

suitable approach for communicating the reminders settings or any other program guide settings from the program guide at the user's location to the other program guides may be used if desired.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 33, line 28 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

In addition to the opportunity to set reminders, the user may be provided the opportunity to create profiles to customize the viewing experience, which may be accessed by selecting profiles option 183 from the menu of main screen 170 of FIG. 12. For example, if desired, the program guides may allow each user to establish a profile of settings and other criteria as described, for example, in commonly-assigned Ellis et al. U.S. patent application No. 09/034,934, filed March 4, 1998, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. With such an approach, users may establish profiles of preferences such as their favorite channels, preferred genres of programming (sports, comedy, etc.), favorite actors, desired or required ratings, etc. In accordance with the present invention, one of the program guides may provide the user with an opportunity to apply this profile to all locations or to apply such settings to a specific program guide location or locations. The guide

may apply the profile to a default location or to a location determined by other factors as described above.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 34, line 21 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Once the user chooses favorites option 175, the program guide at the user's location may present the user with a favorite channels screen such as favorite channels screen 250 of FIG. 24. The user may move highlight region 207 to a channel such as channel option 251 of screen 250 (which may be a local news channel), channel option 252 of screen 250, channel option 253 of screen 250, or channel option 254 of screen 250. [[and]] The user can then toggle between selecting and not selecting that channel by pressing the enter key on remote control 54. In the example of FIG. 24, a favorite channel is represented by an X. Next, the user can choose to apply the selected favorites settings to various other program guide locations by selecting apply to all option 205, apply to select locations option 206, or apply to current location 209. If the user chooses the apply to select locations option 206, the program guide at the user's location provides the user with menu screens from which to select the desired locations to which the favorites settings are to be applied. The desired locations may be set by default or other factors as described

above. A parent may want to prevent children from even seeing the titles of objectionable programming.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 36, line 10 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

A series recording option may also be provided that allows users to record program series. Series recording is described in the above-mentioned Knudson et al. U.S. patent application ~~Serial~~ No. [[_____]] 09/330,792, filed June 11, 1999 ~~(Attorney Docket No. UV-56)~~.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 36, line 25 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

The user may select a program to order from a screen such as pay-per-view screen 290 of FIG. 26 using remote control 54 to navigate through program options. For example, the user may move highlight region 291 to program listing 292 (which may be for the movie "Volcano" scheduled to be aired at 10:00 PM). The user may then select the program by pressing the enter button on remote control 54. Pay-per-view ordering screens such as pay-per-view ordering screen 370 of FIG. 27 may be used to allow the user to view information on [[the]] channel 371 on which the program is scheduled to be broadcast, [[the]] rating 377, [[the]] price 378 (shown illustratively as involving a surcharge for

availability at additional locations within the household), and various available broadcast times 373, 374, and 376. A cancel option 372 allows the user to cancel pay-per-view ordering. The user may select cancel option 372 or a given broadcast time 373, 374, or 376 by placing highlight region 375 on top of the desired option and pressing enter. The user may choose to make the selected program available to various locations within the household by selecting the select locations option 206. Alternatively, the guide may make the program available to a default location or to a location determined by other factors as described above.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 37, line 17 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

The program guide system may support a messages option, which may be accessed by selecting messages option 174 from the menu of main screen 170 of FIG. 12. Messages may be sent from the service provider at television distribution facility 38 (FIG. 1) and may relate, e.g., to billing matters, general concerns, service issues, etc. Messages may be sent to the main facility or other locations by the Internet or electronic messages or other suitable means. Messages may appear on the television screen of television 52 when received. The appearance may, for example, be in a text box at the bottom of the screen. The

user may be provided a list of messages that may be viewed and choose one to view. An indicator may also appear showing that unread messages exist. A messages receiving screen such as messages receiving screen 300 of FIG. 28 may be provided that allows, the user to navigate through a table relating various locations with various types of messaging. For example, the user may move highlight region 301 to the option relating to messages of the billing type for the children's room location. By hitting the enter key the user may toggle between turning such messages on and off. If, in this example, messages are turned on, the children's room would receive billing messages. If messages are turned off, the children's room would not receive billing messages.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 38, line 8 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

A user may have the ability to send text, audio, graphics or video messages between locations. On Messages sending screen 340 of FIG. 29, the user may use data input device 140 (FIG. 10) to type a text message in the message entry section 343. Alternately the user may enter audio messages through, for example, using a microphone as a data input device or video with a camera device. The user can select which location to send the message to by moving highlight region 341 to location option 342 (which may be the

children's room). For example, a parent in the downstairs master bedroom may send a message telling the child in the upstairs bedroom to come down for dinner or to do their homework. [[If desired,]] Messages sending screen [[340]] 379 of FIG. [[29]] 30 may provide the user with an opportunity to select from pre-existing text messages 380. [[These pre]] Pre-existing messages 380 may have been previously stored by a user or pre-set by the manufacturer. Messages may be transmitted between program guides at different locations within the household using any suitable communications technique such as e-mail protocols or any method described in connection with the above discussion of various topologies.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 38, line 31 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

The program guide system may also provide the user with an opportunity to set device control options. For example, the user may access main screen 170 of FIG. 12, and use remote control 54 to choose the setup option 179 by using the remote control 54 to scroll to the setup option 179 and pressing the enter button. The user can then select audio option 312 on setup screen 310 of FIG. 31 by moving highlight region 313 and pressing the enter button. Next, on the setup audio screen 330 of FIG. 33, the user may move highlight

region 332 to set volume option [[332]] 331. The user may use remote control 54 to adjust the volume upwards or downwards. For example, parents may wish to turn down the volume on the kids television. The user may choose to apply the adjustments made on screen 330 to all locations by selecting apply to all option 205, to the current location by selecting apply to current location option 209, or may choose to apply adjustments to a specific location or locations by selecting the select locations option 206. Alternatively, the guide may apply the settings to a default location or to a location determined by other factors as described above.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 39, line 20 with the following amended version of that paragraph:

Another program guide option that may be coordinated within the household is an option for selecting languages. From setup screen 310 of FIG. 31, the user may also select language option 311 by moving highlight region 313 and pressing the enter button. On setup language screen 320 of FIG. 32 or other such screen, the user may move highlight region 321 to ~~set language option 322~~ select a language (which may be German). The user may use remote control 54 to select the chosen language. The user may choose to apply the adjustments to all locations by selecting apply to all option 205, choose to apply adjustments to a

specific location or locations by selecting the select locations option 206, or choose to apply to the current location by selecting current location option 209.

Alternatively, the guide may apply the settings to a default location or to a location determined by other factors as described above. The selected language may be used by the program guide when displaying program guide screens that contain text or audio, as described in Ellis et al. U.S. patent application ~~Serial~~ No. [[____]] 09/354,602, filed concurrently herewith ~~(Attorney Docket No. UV-115)~~, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please add the following paragraph before the paragraph that begins on page 40, line 10:

Other device options, such as, video option 314 and closed-captioning (CC) option 315 may be set from screen 310 of FIG. 31. After the user has chosen a location to which the settings may be applied, the user may name the location by selecting name location option 317.

Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph that begins on page 43, line 29:

A chat application may be implemented on user television equipment such as a set top box. Chat applications are services that allow users to exchange chat

messages with other users in real time. A chat application may be implemented as a stand-alone chat application or as part of another application such as a program guide application. A user may adjust settings associated with a chat application such as the size of a chat window or whether to filter potentially offensive messages. Chat applications that may be implemented on user television equipment are described in McKissick et al. U.S. patent application ~~Serial~~ No. [[_____]] 09/356,270, filed concurrently herewith ~~(Attorney Docket No. UV 101)~~, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. After the user adjusts chat settings, the user can choose to apply the chat settings adjustments to all locations by selecting an apply to all option or may opt to apply the adjustments to a specific location or locations by selecting a select locations option. Settings may be coordinated between the chat applications using options provided by the chat application. The chat application may apply the settings to a default location or to a location determined by other factors as described above.